

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 75, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For example, in the user interface scenario shown in FIG. 16A, query directives can be dragged onto the canvas and configured to generate the proper information. An analysis directive can analyze the results for a shortage condition. A condition branch is added for processing when a shortage is recognized. A distribution directive can notify the ~~affected~~ affected manager and gain approval to create a purchase order. Upon approval, a conditional branch can direct execution to a purchase order creation directive and an email or other notification to the supplier. Finally, a message can be sent to the approving manager that the approved action was taken.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 95, line 6 (the abstract), with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~A collection of data is processed and information arising from the processing can be distributed in a variety of ways to support a decision-making process~~ Information can be collected, processed, and distributed in a variety of ways to support a decision-making process. A query-analyze-distribute approach can be used, and queries, analysis directives, and distribution directives can be associated into a sequence and shared. Access to interim processing is provided, ~~allowing recipients of information to more easily understand and refine the processing.~~ Unbound queries, unbound analysis directives, and unbound distribution directives can be used and shared so that the queries, analysis directives, and distribution directives can be tailored to a particular situation via binding. Query, analysis, and distribution directives can be stored in unbound format and tailored to a particular situation via binding. The query, analysis, and distribution processing can be loosely-coupled to allow easy interchange and combination of sequence elements. A sequence can be scheduled for periodic execution, ~~and distribution of data can be limited to instances when data falls outside of certain expected values~~ and distribution can be tailored based on filters and exceptions. A decision-making process can be automated by creating an executable workflow. The environment in which the

workflow is executed can support a rich set of features, including gating, branching, drill down, and execution tracking. A decision-making process based on a sequence can be refined by employing executable metasequences.